

MDA BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED

SB 71 – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Value of Easement (MDA Dept Bill)

Sets a floor and a ceiling for the purchase of an agricultural preservation easement of not more than 75 percent of the land's appraised fair market value. Therefore, if the valuation calculated a number (Easement Value) greater than 75 percent of fair market value, then the offer would be set at 75 percent of fair market value. In addition, if an offer is calculated at less than 25 percent of fair market value, this legislation will set the offer to be either 25 percent of fair market value or the asking price, whichever is less. The Easement Value is calculated as follows: Appraised Fair Market Value minus a calculated Agricultural Value.

HB 451 Neighborhood Business Development Program – Financial Assistance for Food Deserts

Allows the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Neighborhood Business Development Program help create specified small businesses and other food-related enterprises in food deserts. The bill would also specify the criteria for designating an area as a food desert. It would also require that applicants include a plan to seek out sources of Maryland-grown produce and Maryland-produced foods. It would also establish the Interagency Food Desert Advisory Committee.

HB 861/SB 259 Agricultural Easements – Renewable Energy Generation Facilities

Will allow all current and future Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement landowners to request to install commercial renewable energy generation facilities. These facilities will be limited to electricity generated by solar, wind and anaerobic digesters for poultry and livestock. MALPF could only approve if the local advisory board gives a favorable recommendation. Equipment, etc would have to be removed by the lease holder if it is no longer moved.